



Title: I, Payroll/Personnel Manual

Chapter: 28, Section 2, Tax Formulas (TAXES)

Bulletin: TAXES 08–21, Massachusetts State Income Tax Withholding

Date: April 14, 2008

To: Holders of TAXES (State of Massachusetts only)  
Personnel User Groups  
T&A Contact Points in Massachusetts

Beginning with wages paid for Pay Period 7, the National Finance Center (NFC) will make the following changes to the state of Massachusetts income tax withholdings:

- The exemption allowance for one exemption will increase from \$4,125 to \$4,400. For more than one exemption, the amount for each exemption remains \$1,000 per exemption and the additional amount will increase from \$3,125 to \$3,400.
- The tax credit for head of household will increase from \$119.25 to \$127.20.

No action on the part of the employee or the personnel office is necessary.

To view the updated tax formula, go to NFC's Home Page ([www.nfc.usda.gov](http://www.nfc.usda.gov)) and click the **Publications** link at the top of the page. At the Publications page right-hand menu, click **Tax Formulas** and select the appropriate state from the map provided. Changes to the tax formula are identified by "►◄".

For questions about NFC processing, contact the Payroll/Personnel Call Center at **504-255-4630**.

JOHN S. WHITE, Acting Director  
Government Employees Services Division

# Massachusetts State Income Tax Information

<b>State Abbreviation:</b>	MA
<b>State Tax Withholding State Code:</b>	25
<b>Acceptable Exemption Form:</b>	M-4
<b>Basis For Withholding:</b>	State Exemptions
<b>Acceptable Exemption Data:</b>	0, A, B, C / Number of Exemptions
<b>TSP Deferred:</b>	Yes
<b>Special Coding:</b>	Determine the Total Number Of Allowances field as follows: <b>First Position</b> – Refer to the blocks under Item 5 on the M-4. Enter <b>0 (zero)</b> if no blocks have been checked. Enter <b>A</b> if Block A has been checked (head of household). Enter <b>B</b> if Block B <i>or</i> C has been checked (employee or spouse is blind). Enter <b>C</b> if Block B <i>and</i> C has been checked (employee and spouse are blind). <b>Note:</b> If Block D has been checked, enter ONL. No tax will be withheld due to limited earnings. <b>Second and Third Positions</b> – Enter the total number of exemptions claimed on Line 4 of the M-4. If less than 10, precede with a zero.
<b>Additional Information:</b>	None

## Withholding Formula ►(Effective Pay Period 7, 2008)◄

1. Subtract the nontaxable biweekly Thrift Savings Plan contribution from the gross biweekly wages.
2. Subtract the nontaxable biweekly Federal Health Benefits Plan payment(s) (includes dental and vision insurance program, and flexible spending account – health care and dependent care deductions) from the amount computed in Step 1.
3. Add the taxable biweekly fringe benefits (taxable life insurance, etc.) to the amount computed in step 2 to obtain the adjusted gross biweekly wages.
4. Multiply the adjusted gross biweekly wages times ►27◄ to obtain the gross annual wages.

**Note:** Do not withhold tax on employees who claim one or more exemptions while making less than \$8,000 annually.

5. Determine the employee's current retirement deduction amount:
  - a. Multiply the year-to-date state taxable wages (not including current wages) by the employee's Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) rate (e.g., 7.65 percent for social security, 1.45 percent for Medicare-only) to obtain the previous year-to-date FICA contribution.
  - b. Add the previous year-to-date FICA contribution computed in Step 5a to the employee's year-to-date contribution to all other retirement systems to obtain the previous year-to-date retirement contribution.

**Note:** If this amount is greater than \$2,000, the current retirement deduction amount is zero. Omit Steps 5c through 5e and proceed to Step 6.

- c. Multiply the current state taxable wages by the employee's FICA rate (e.g., 7.65 percent for social security, 1.45 percent for Medicare-only) to obtain the current FICA contribution.
- d. Add the current FICA contribution computed in Step 5c to the employee's current contribution to all other retirement systems to obtain the current retirement contribution.
- e. Add the previous year-to-date retirement contribution computed in Step 5b to the current retirement contribution computed in Step 5d to obtain the new year-to-date retirement contribution.

**Note:** If this amount is greater than \$2,000, the current retirement deduction amount is \$2,000 minus the previous year-to-date retirement contribution (e.g., \$2,000 minus the amount computed in Step 5b).

or

If this amount is less than or equal to \$2,000, the current retirement deduction amount is equal to the current retirement contribution computed in Step 5d.

- 6. Subtract the current retirement deduction amount computed in Step 5, if applicable, from the current adjusted gross biweekly wages computed in Step 3 to obtain the current adjusted gross biweekly wages.

**Note:** If the employee's current retirement deduction amount computed in Step 5 is zero, the current adjusted gross biweekly wages is the amount computed in Step 3.

- 7. Multiply the current adjusted gross biweekly wages by ►27◄ to obtain the current adjusted gross annual wages.
- 8. Subtract the following amounts, as applicable, from the current adjusted gross annual wages computed in Step 7:

- a. If the employee claims **one exemption only**, deduct ►\$4,400.◄

or

- b. If the employee claims **more than one exemption**, deduct \$1,000 times the number of exemptions plus ►\$3,400.◄

- 9. Multiply the result of Step 8 by 5.30 percent to obtain the annual Massachusetts tax withholding.
- 10. Subtract the following tax credits, as applicable, from the annual Massachusetts tax withholding computed in Step 9:
  - a. If the employee claims head of household, deduct ►\$127.20.◄
  - b. If the employee and/or spouse is blind, deduct \$116.60 for each blind exemption.
- 11. Divide the annual Massachusetts tax withholding by ►27◄ to obtain the biweekly Massachusetts tax withholding.